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# Native Perennials

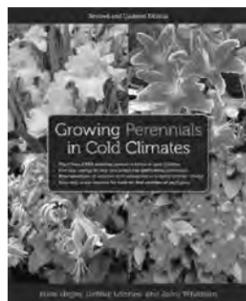
We use [plants.usda.gov](https://plants.usda.gov) as our source to determine whether a species is native to Minnesota. If you're looking for plants native to North America but not Minnesota, you'll find them in the Perennials section.

Native plants are marked with the Minnesota symbol ☞ and the source of the plant stock or seed used to grow these plants is given. Those without the Minnesota symbol are selections or cultivated varieties bred from the Minnesota species. In those cases, the term "cultivar," "selected," or "selection" is used.

Many of these plants are first-season seedlings that will stay small this year as they develop their root systems, not blooming until their second season in the garden.

## Key

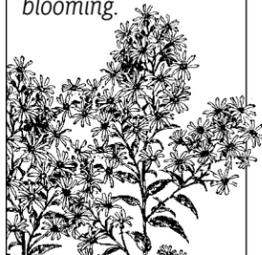
- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade
- ♠ Attractive to bees
- 🦉 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 👤 Hummingbird-friendly
- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍵 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌱 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
- 🩹 Medicinal
- ☑ Minnesota native
- 🪨 Rock garden
- ❄️ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F
- ☹️ Toxic to humans
- 🛒 Saturday restock



## About those stars...

Throughout, you will notice plants that are marked with five stars (★★★★★). These plants have been awarded five stars by Heger, Lonnee, and Whitman in the 2011 edition of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* as some of the very best plants available on the market.

Cutting back your aster plants by half in mid-June will make them bushier and will not impede blooming.



**N001 Anemone, Wood** *Anemone quinquefolia*  
White 1" flowers wave in spring breezes on slender stems, then disappear after blooming to return next spring. Spreading by rhizomes, the plants form a nice drift at the woodland edge. Seed from Carlton County, Minn. 4–8"h ☐●☑☹️ \$15.00—4" pot

## Aster, Aromatic

*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*

Showy, bushy plant with hundreds of 1" daisies in fall. Excellent cut flower. Host plant for silvery checkerspot butterflies. Grows in many soil types, including clay.

○●♠🦋☑

\$4.00—2.5" pot:

**N002 Dream of Beauty**—Pink flowers with burnt orange centers form a dense carpet. Selected by Great Plains plantsman Claude Barr. ★★★★★ 12"h

**N003 October Skies**—Light lavender-blue flowers with gold centers on mint-scented mounds. Pollinators appreciate that it blooms in late summer and fall when nectar is harder to find. Cultivar. ★★★★★ 15–24"h

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N004 Wild Aromatic Aster** 🦋—Blue-lavender flowers with yellow centers. Seed from Peoria County, Illinois. 12–40"h 🦋☑

## Aster, Calico

*Symphotrichum lateriflorum*  
Half-inch white daisies bloom in loose 10" clusters along widely spreading branches for a month or two starting in mid-August. Narrow leaves become smaller as they go up the stems. In the wild, it prefers woodland and semi-shaded wetlands, so moist soil and some shade will be appreciated. "Calico" (a colorful cloth) refers to the flowers' pale yellow centers that turn reddish purple. ○●♠🦋

\$4.00—2.5" pot:

**N005 Lady in Black**—Purplish leaves and stems in spring, later becoming smothered in flowers with rosy pink centers. A selection that is very close to the native species. 24–36"h

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N006 Wild Calico Aster**—The species name means "side flower" because the flowers are generally located on one side of the stems, giving it its other common name, side-flowering aster. Seed from Allamakee County, Iowa. 36"h ☑

## Aster, Heart-Leaved

*Symphotrichum cordifolium*

Clouds of small daisies, sometimes light blue, sometimes white, with centers that change from yellow to dark pink, August–October. Wonderful cut flowers and charming in the garden. Average to dry soil. Reseeds. Seed from Winona, Minn. 24–36"h ○●♠🦋☑ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## Aster, New England

*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*

Daisy flowers with excellent late-season color, blooming throughout the fall. Tolerant of wet soil but happy in average soil. Deer-resistant. ○●♠🦋

\$4.00—2.5" pot:

**N008 Purple Dome**—A standout in the fall garden. Performs best in full sun and well-drained soil. Cultivar. ★★★★★ 18"h

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N009 Wild New England Aster**—Lavender, pink, or violet blossoms. Cutting back the stems in June produces bushier plants. Seed from Sangamon County, Illinois. 24–60"h 🦋☑

\$8.00—4.5" pot:

**N010 Pink Crush** 🦋—Bright fuchsia flowers cover the entire dome of this mounding cultivar, giving it the look of a pink pincushion. 20–24"h by 34–38"w

## N011 Aster, Prairie Golden

*Heterotheca villosa*

Yellow 1" daisies bloom on thin stems with narrow wavy leaves June–September, then tufts of dry seed heads in the center disk in fall. May go dormant in a drought, bouncing back after a rain. Midwest seed source. 8–20"h ○♠🦋☑ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## N012 Aster, Sky Blue

*Symphotrichum oolentangiense*

A best bet for late season beauty and drama. Dozens of 1" lavender to deep blue yellow-eyed daisies are held in large sprays August–October. Thrives in dry soil but is even more gorgeous in rich garden soil. Seed from Fillmore County, Minn. 12–48"h ○●♠🦋☑ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## N013 Aster, Smooth Blue

*Symphotrichum laeve*

Lavender daisy flowers in profusion August–October. One of the most versatile, appealing, and long-lived of all the asters. The attractive blue-green foliage is silky smooth. Plant in full sun for a charming floral display. Seed from Winona County, Minn. ★★★★★ 36–60"h ○●♠🦋☑ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## Baneberry

*Actaea*

Good on wooded hillsides. ○●☑☹️

\$10.00—1 quart pot:

**N014 Doll's Eyes** *A. pachypoda*—White bottlebrush flowers, but the show is the white berries with black tips contrasting with magenta stalks. Wild seed source outside Minnesota. ★★★★★ 36"h

\$13.00—4" pot:

**N015 Wild Red Baneberry** *A. rubra*—Attractive lobed foliage followed by poisonous bright red berries in late summer and fall. Seed from Mille Lacs County, Minn. 18–24"h 🦋

## Beardtongue, Foxglove

*Penstemon digitalis*

Elongated, triangular leaves ripple slightly on upright stems. Not related to foxglove (*Digitalis*); it's so named because the June flowers resemble miniature foxgloves. Self-seeds, though not in a bad way. ○●♠🦋☹️

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N016 Wild Foxglove Beardtongue** 🦋—White to light pink tubular flowers. Seed from Jo Daviess County, Illinois. 24–48"h 🦋☑

\$12.00—4.5" pot:

**N017 Blackbeard** 🦋—Named after the English pirate Blackbeard, this cultivated variety has foliage that emerges dark red and deepens to almost black. Strong burgundy stems hold spires of tubular lilac-pink flowers, followed by burgundy seed pods. Rugged and easy to grow. 28–34"h by 20–24"w

## N018 Beardtongue, Large-Flowered

*Penstemon grandiflorus*

Tubular, large-throated lavender flowers in early summer above blue-green foliage. Prefers a dry spot. Seed from Clinton County, Iowa. 24–40"h ○♠🦋☑☹️ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## N019 Beardtongue, Slender

*Penstemon gracilis*

Pale violet tubular flowers borne horizontally May–July. "Slender" refers to leaves being narrower than foxglove beardtongue. Very drought-tolerant, preferring dry, sandy soils. Host plant for the chalcid checkerspot and Edith's checkerspot butterflies. Seed from Polk County, Minn. 24"h ○●♠🦋☑☹️ \$4.50—3.5" pot

See more BEARDTONGUE, page 36

## N020 Bee Balm, Spotted

*Monarda punctata*

Tiers of pink or lavender petal-like whorls ring the stems and are showier than the actual flowers, which are small and purple-spotted pink to yellow. Aromatic, self-seeding biennial. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Native to prairie and savanna. Seed from Monroe County, Wis. 12–36"h ○●♠🦋☑☹️ \$4.50—3.5" pot

See more BEE BALM, page 36

## N021 Bellflower, Tall

*Campanula americana*

Blue star flowers on tall spikes in late summer, not bell-like. Long bloom time. Self-seeding biennial, not weedy like the unfortunately ubiquitous European creeping bellflower. Seed from Madison County, Iowa. 24–72"h ○●♠☑ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## N022 Bergamot, Wild

*Monarda fistulosa*

This fragrant member of the mint family has lavender blossoms July–September. Excellent for butterflies and moths; attracts hummingbirds and finches. Good for tea. Seed from northeast Iowa. 24–48"h by 48"w ○♠🦋☑☹️ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## N023 Bishop's Cap

*Mitella diphylla*

Spikes of tiny, fantastically intricate white flowers with fringed petals April–June. Maple-shaped 3" leaves. Prefers moist soil. Spreads by seed or rhizomes. Seed from northern Iowa. 6–16"h ○●☑☹️ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## Black-Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia hirta*

Daisies with long petals on single stems. Biennial or short-lived perennial. Also known as gloriosa daisy.

○●🦋☹️

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

**N024 Irish Eyes** 🦋—Gold with green centers. Highly rated for pollinators at the U of M trial gardens. Cultivar. 24–30"h ♠

**N025 Toto Gold** 🦋—Yellow and red 4–5" flowers with prominent dark centers. Prolong bloom until frost by cutting back the plant after first blooming. Compact cultivar that is great for a summer container. 12–15"h

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N026 Wild Black-Eyed Susan** 🦋—Seed from Madison and Ringgold counties, Iowa. 12–40"h by 8–12"w ♠🦋☑

## N027 Black-Eyed Susan, Sweet

*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*

Large yellow daisies with red-brown centers. An outstanding perennial that makes great cut flowers. Attracts butterflies. Blooms August–October. Seed from Madison and Ringgold counties, Iowa. 24–72"h ○●🦋☑☹️ \$4.50—3.5" pot

See more BLACK-EYED SUSANS, page 36 and also BROWN-EYED SUSANS, page 53

## Blanket Flower

*Gaillardia aristata*

Sun-loving, colorful daisies on mounding plants. Blooms regardless of heat and drought. Deadheading results in a blanket of color all summer. Requires good drainage. ○🦋

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

**N028 Arizona Sun** 🦋—Bicolor 3" flowers in brick and gold. Cultivated variety of the native species. 8–10"h

**N029 Burgundy** 🦋—Wine red flowers. Cultivated variety of the native species. 24–30"h

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N030 Wild Blanket Flower** 🦋—Red petals with yellow tips and a dark red center. Seed source unknown.

\$8.00—1 quart pot:

**N031 Fanfare Blaze**—Fiery trumpet-like petals surround a red and yellow center. Cultivated variety of the native species. 12–16"h 🦋

## Blazing Star

*Liatris*

Vertical spikes of flowers. Loved by butterflies. Seeds eaten by birds. ○♠🦋☑☹️

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N032 Wild Button Blazing Star** *L. aspera* 🦋—Tufts of lavender flowers loosely line the stems creating a showy flower spike. Blooms August–September. Protect bulbs from rodents. Quite adaptable. Seed from Grant County, S.D. 24–36"h

## N033 Wild Dotted Blazing Star

*L. punctata*

🦋—Narrow, horizontal leaves are interspersed with magenta-violet flowers. The most drought-tolerant blazing star, its roots go down 7–15'. Seed from the upper Midwest. 12–36"h

## N034 Wild Meadow Blazing Star

*L. ligulistylis* 🦋—Tall stalks of purple blossoms, best in moist soil.

The absolute favorite of monarch butterflies. Seed from western Iowa. ★★★★★ 36–60"h

## N035 Wild Prairie Blazing Star

*L. pycnostachya* 🦋—Dense flower spikes of bright purple from midsummer to early autumn over densely clustered lower leaves and hairy stems. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 24–48"h

See also BLAZING STAR, DENSE, page 36



Blazing star

# Native Perennials

Plant widths are similar to their heights unless noted otherwise.

**N036 Bloodroot** *Sanguinaria canadensis* 🌿  
Emerges in early spring with the leaf curled around the flower stem, soon unfurling as the flower blooms. Each stem has one distinctive, deeply scalloped 5–9" leaf and a 2" white flower with a yellow center. The flowers close at night, and last a day or two. Nice as a group in a woodland setting. Disappears in midsummer, returning next spring. The red sap in the stem and roots is used as a dye, originally by many Native American peoples, and gives the plant its name. Polk County, Wis., source. 6–9"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$18.00—4.5" pot  
See more BLOODROOT, page ##

**Blue-Eyed Grass** *Sisyrinchium*  
Delicate, late-spring bloomer. Looks like a grass, but then small, star-shaped blue flowers appear. 🌱🌿  
\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N037 Prairie Blue-Eyed Grass** *S. campestris* 🌿—Wild seed from Winona County, Minn. 4–12"h

**N038 Stout Blue-Eyed Grass** *S. angustifolium* 🌿—Native to damp, open woodlands and stream banks. Seed from Pennsylvania. 12–20"h

**N039 Bluebells, Virginia** 🌿  
*Mertensia virginica*

Blooms in spring, then disappears until the following spring. Pink buds open to lavender-blue bells. Good between daylilies or hosta. Seed from Houston County, Minn. 12–24"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N040 Boneset** *Eupatorium perfoliatum*  
Pink blossoms July–September. Interesting leaf texture with leaves pierced by the stem (the species name means "perforated foliage"). Prefers the wetter end of the garden or edge of pond. Excellent nectar for bees and butterflies. Seed from Benton County, Minn. 36"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**Brown-Eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia triloba*  
Short-lived, self-seeding perennial with smaller flowers than black-eyed Susan, but blooms more heavily. 🌱🌿🌿  
\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N041 Prairie Glow** 🌿—Profuse 2.5" gold and reddish orange daisies on dark stems. Can be made more compact by pinching it back early in May. Selection. 36–48"h

**N042 Wild Brown-Eyed Susan** 🌿—Yellow flowers with dark centers July–October. Great cut flowers. Easy to grow; blooms the second year. Seed from Appanoose or Allamakee counties, Iowa. 24–60"h 🌿  
See also BLACK-EYED SUSANS, pages 36 and 52

**N043 Bush Clover, Round-Headed**  
*Lespedeza capitata*

Clusters of white pea-like flowers with lavender throats on stiff upright stems, late summer. Host plant to several butterfly and moth species and good for wildlife, including songbirds. Seed from Oklahoma. 24–48"h 🌱🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**Cardinal Flower** *Lobelia cardinalis*

Fan-shaped flowers on vertical stems. Blooms mid- to late summer. Best in part shade and constantly moist, rich soil. Deer- and rabbit-resistant. 🌱🌿🌿

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

**N044 White Cardinal** *L. cardinalis* f. *alba* 🌿—Uncommon white form of the red cardinal flower, with the same spikes of tubular flowers with a three-part lower lip. A naturally occurring color variation. Horticultural source. 24–36"h 🌿🌿🌿  
\$14.00—4.5" pot:

**N045 Wild Cardinal Flower** 🌿—Scarlet flowers. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 24–36"h 🌿🌿🌿  
\$14.00—4.5" pot:

**N046 Black Truffle** 🌿—Cultivar with vibrant red flowers set off by chocolate-purple foliage that holds its color through the season, darkening as the temperatures cool in fall. 36–48"h 🌿

**N047 Columbine, Wild** 🌿  
*Aquilegia canadensis*

Red and yellow blossoms in late spring. Easy to grow, though short-lived and self-seeding. Excellent nectar source for hummingbirds. Does well in dappled shade. Good for edge of woodland or partly shaded hillside. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 24–36"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot  
See more COLUMBINES, page 37



Blue-eyed grass

**N048 Compass Plant** *Silphium laciniatum* 🌿  
Yellow daisy flowers June–September with huge, attractive leaves that point north and south. Tolerates drier soils. An excellent choice for a large-scale wild-flower garden. Seed from central Illinois. 72–120"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N049 Coneflower, Green-Headed**  
*Rudbeckia laciniata*

Turned-back yellow petals and a greenish center. Blooms late July–October. An edible green. Native to prairie, savanna, and woodlands. Spreads. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 72–120"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N050 Coneflower, Narrow-Leaf** 🌿  
*Echinacea angustifolia*

Large pink daisies with turned-back petals in July. Prefers dry, sandy, well-drained soil. Seed from eastern South Dakota. 12–24"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N051 Coneflower, Yellow** 🌿  
*Ratibida pinnata*

Long yellow petals droop attractively down around a prominent dark center, somewhat like a badminton birdie. One of the most elegant of all wild flowers. Blooms July–September. Easy to grow. Seed from Kossuth County, Iowa. 36–72"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot  
See more CONEFLOWER, page 37

**N052 Coreopsis, Prairie** 🌿  
*Coreopsis palmata*

Yellow daisy blossoms in July. Aggressive, spreads by rhizomes to form dense patches. Common on undisturbed prairies. Easy to grow. Tolerates dry conditions. Seed from St. Croix County, Wis. 16–36"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N053 Coreopsis, Sand** *Coreopsis lanceolata* 🌿  
Yellow 1–2" flowers with closely spaced, toothed petals and yellow centers. Flowers bloom on slender, upright stems from spring to early summer. Well-drained soil. Seed from Sheboygan County, Wis. 12–24"h 🌱🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot  
See more COREOPSIS, page 22 and 38

**N054 Culver's Root** *Veronicastrum virginicum* 🌿  
Tall and stately with big, dramatic spikes of white to pale pink or pale blue flowers July–August. Watch the bees adore the flowers in the height of summer. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 72"h by 36"w 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N055 Cup Plant** *Silphium perfoliatum* 🌿  
Long-blooming yellow daisies in later summer. Huge leaves catch water at stem joints. There's nothing like seeing a goldfinch bathing in one of these naturally occurring bird baths! An impressive prairie plant that self-seeds freely. Prefers moist soil. Seed from Columbia County, Wis. 48–96"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N056 Dutchman's Breeches** 🌿  
*Dicentra cucullaria*

Delicate, fringed foliage and pale yellow to white pantaloon-like flowers in early spring. Dies back in summer only to pop back up the next spring. Wear gloves when handling; the foliage may irritate skin. Seed from Grant County, Wis. ★★★★★ 6–12"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 4.5" pot—\$14.00

**N057 False Indigo** *Amorpha fruticosa*

Loose, airy shrub that often forms dense thickets. Fine-textured foliage on the upper third of the plant. Small purple flowers in narrow 3–6" spikes from April–June. Happy anywhere from a dry prairie to a bog garden. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 72–120"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿 \$9.00—1 quart pot

**Fern** See box below

**N066 Figwort, Late** *Scrophularia marilandica*  
Tiny reddish brown flowers that look like "a horse's mouth with a bad overbite," but are interesting to put in dried flower arrangements. This southeastern Minnesota native blooms July–October and has special value to native bees due to its large amount of nectar, according to the Xerces Society. Deer-resistant. Also called carpenter's square. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 40–96"h by 24"w 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N067 Fireweed** *Chamerion angustifolium* 🌿  
Spikes of 1" magenta to pink flowers on red stems with pointed, narrow leaves. So named because it rapidly fills open spaces left by fires (spreading by rhizomes and seeds). In England during World War II, it was called bombweed because it filled bomb craters. Does not like to be crowded. Blooms all summer. Formerly *Epilobium*. Seed from Burnett County, Wis. 48"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**N068 Geranium, Wild** 🌿  
*Geranium maculatum*

Small lavender-pink flowers from April–July. Red fall foliage. Seed from Madison County, Iowa. 18–30"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿🌿 \$4.50—3.5" pot



Dutchman's breeches



The little truck means we'll be restocking this plant on Saturday morning.

## BYO Crates, Boxes, Bins, and Carts

Enter to win prizes\*—one free ticket for each container.

Visit the Zero Waste Tent in the Garden Fair to enter.

\*Details on page 34



## Native Ferns

**N058 Christmas Fern** 🌿  
*Polystichum acrostichoides*

Stays green into winter and can be used for winter decorations. Clumps will grow larger, but do not spread. Tolerates drier soils in shade. Horticultural source. 12–24"h 🌱🌿 \$14.00—4.5" pot

**N059 Cinnamon Fern** 🌿  
*Osmunda cinnamomea*

One of our most majestic native ferns. Grows in boggy and swampy areas, but happy in a well-drained garden, too. Soon after the foliage appears in spring, erect, leafless golden yellow spore fronds emerge from the center of the crown. Horticultural source. ★★★★★ 36–60"h 🌱🌿 \$6.00—3.5" pot

**Lady Fern** *Athyrium*

Prefers moist, rich soil, but is tolerant of sun and drought. Deer- and rabbit-resistant. 🌱🌿  
\$6.00—3.5" pot:

**N060 Lady Fern** *A. filix-femina* 🌿—Vigorous with finely textured fronds. Horticultural source. ★★★★★ 24–36"h 🌿  
\$14.00—1 gal. pot:

**N061 Lady in Red** *A. angustum rubellum* 🌿—Burgundy stems contrast with green fronds. Best color begins to be seen in the second year. Cultivar. ★★★★★ 30–36"h

**Maidenhair Fern** *Adiantum pedatum*

Tiers of delicate 8–12" fronds held horizontally in a circular pattern like spokes on a wheel. Wiry purple-black stems are so thin that the fronds look like they are floating. Pinkish purple fiddleheads in spring. Deer-resistant. Water during drought. Horticultural source. 12–24"h ★★★★★ 🌱🌿

N062 🌿—\$6.00—3.5" pot

N063 🌿—\$14.00—1 gal. pot

**N064 Ostrich Fern** *Matteuccia struthiopteris* 🌿

Native to U.S., Europe, and Asia. Vase-shaped, with huge leaves like ostrich plumes. Grow in moist shade in a woodland garden or at the edge of a pond. Extremely vigorous, spreading by rhizomes. The best source of spring fiddleheads. Syn. *M. pensylvanica*. Horticultural source. ★★★★★ 36–48"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿 \$6.00—3.5" pot

**N065 Sensitive Fern** 🌿

*Onoclea sensibilis*  
Spreading colonies of smooth, upright fronds. Goes dormant at 40°F (hence the name). Horticultural source. 12–36"h 🌱🌿🌿🌿 \$6.00—3.5" pot



Fiddleheads

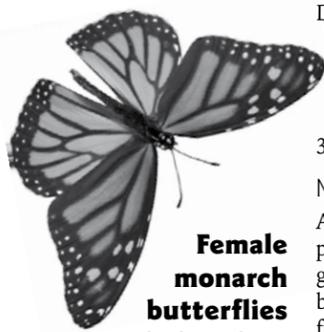
See more hardy FERNS, page 38

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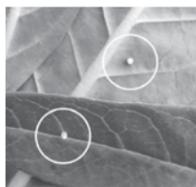
# Native Perennials

## Key

- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade
- 🐝 Attractive to bees
- 🦉 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 👤 Hummingbird-friendly
- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍵 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌱 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
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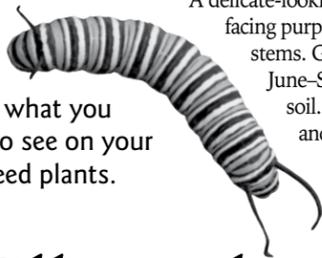


**Female monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on milkweed.**



Monarch eggs on milkweed leaves

This is what you want to see on your milkweed plants.



## Milkweed Asclepias

Milkweed leaves are the only food source of monarch caterpillars. Their flowers are also a great nectar source for pollinators. You'll be surprised by the different leaf shapes, fragrances, and flower colors these native milkweed varieties have to offer, from orange to pink to white. Milkweed is taprooted, so once it's planted, it's hard to move.

### Milkweed for Sun ○○

- N099 **Gay Butterflies** *A. tuberosa* 🌞—Mixed reds, oranges, and yellows. Cultivar of orange butterfly weed. 24" h 🦋 🍵 \$3.00—2.5" pot
- N100 **Hello Yellow** *A. tuberosa*—Showy bright yellow flowers. Cultivar of orange butterfly weed. 30" h 🦋 🍵 \$4.00—2.5" pot
- N101 **Ice Ballet** *A. incarnata* 🌞—Compact, white-flowered selection of swamp milkweed, named for the corps de ballet from Swan Lake. Blooms July–August. Deer-resistant, tolerates clay soils. 24–36" h 🍵 \$8.00—4.5" pot

N069 **Ginger, Wild** *Asarum canadense* 🌞  
Aromatic ground cover with heart-shaped 4–6" leaves. Dark maroon and beige flowers hide under leaves in spring. Forms a colony. Deer-resistant. Unknown seed source. 4–6" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N070 **Golden Alexanders** *Zizia aurea* 🌞  
Bright yellow 3–4" flat-topped flower clusters like a yellow Queen Anne's lace bloom May–June. Leaves and fruits turn bright purple in fall. Self-seeds enthusiastically; tolerates heavy clay soil. Host for the black swallowtail butterfly. Seed from Monroe County, Wis. 24–30" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N071 **Goldenrod, Elm-Leaved** **RENEW** 🌞  
*Solidago ulmifolia*  
Woodland species with a loose tower of bright yellow flower clusters at the tops of central stems July–October. Thin, toothed leaves a little like those of American elm. Spreads by rhizomes, and may self-seed. Deer-tolerant. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 24–48" h ●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N072 **Goldenrod, Gray** *Solidago nemoralis*  
Bright yellow flowers in 6–8" nodding plumes August–October. Grows well in poor soil. Not an aggressive spreader. Seed from Dakota and Rice counties, Minn. 6–24" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$19.00—6 plants in a jumbo pack

N073 **Goldenrod, Showy** *Solidago speciosa* 🌞  
Densely clustered yellow mini-flowers on reddish stems with olive-green foliage. Probably the nicest goldenrod for sunny locations. Blooms August–October. Reseeds, but does not spread by rhizome. Seed from Black Hawk and Greene counties, Iowa. 36–60" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N074 **Goldenrod, Stiff** *Solidago rigida*  
A handsome plant, once common across the American prairie, with flat-topped yellow flower clusters. August–September bloom. Seeds are late-season food for birds. Adaptable to poor soils and salt exposure. Seed from central Illinois. 36–60" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N075 **Goldenrod, Zigzag** 🌞  
*Solidago flexicaulis*  
There are flowers in two places: 3–6" spikes of small yellow flowers on top and smaller flower clusters where the zigzag stem and large leaves meet. Adds color to shady areas. Best in naturalized woodland settings. Minnesota seed source. 24–36" h ●●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

See more GOLDENROD, page 39

N076 **Harebells** 🌞  
*Campanula rotundifolia*  
A delicate-looking plant with down-facing purple bellflowers on thin stems. Grassy leaves. Blooms June–September. Prefers drier soil. Native to prairie, savanna, and woodland edges. May be small at the sale. Seed from Grant County, Wis. 4–20" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot



Harebells

N077 **Helen's Flower** *Helenium autumnale* 🌞  
Yellow-centered flowers with a skirt of jagged-edged yellow petals. Grows beautifully in the garden and is great for clay soil. Thrives in damp soil. Nicknamed "sneezeweed" because the dried leaves were once used to make snuff—not because it aggravates allergies. Seed from Iowa. 48–60" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N078 **Hepatica, Wild Sharp-Lobed** 🌞  
*Hepatica acutiloba*  
Sweet in the woodland garden, with lavender, white, pink, or blue flowers in April. Burgundy-brown leaves persist through winter. Michigan source. 5" h ●●📄 4.5" pot—\$18.00

N079 **Hyssop, Anise** *Agastache foeniculum* 🌞  
Fragrant purple flowers July–August. Goldfinches favor the seeds. Aromatic leaves used for tea. Vigorous spreader. Seed from Anoka County, Minn. 24–60" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N080 **Hyssop, Purple Giant** 🌞  
*Agastache scrophulariifolia*  
Crowded spikes of lavender flowers July–September. Large, fragrant leaves below the flower spikes. Spreads well (it's in the mint family). Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 48–60" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N081 **Iris, Northern Blue Flag** 🌞  
*Iris versicolor*  
Large, showy flowers, purple on the edges with a yellow and white throat. Brightens sunny marsh edges during early summer in the wild. Good for gardens with moist soil, too. Seed from Crawford County, Wis. 18–30" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot  
See more IRIS, page 44

N082 **Ironweed, Prairie** *Vernonia fasciculata* 🌞  
Tall plants with clusters of fluffy bright reddish purple flowers July–September. Seed from Madison County, Iowa. 48–72" h ○●🦋🍵 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N083 **Jack-in-the-Pulpit** 🌞  
*Arisaema triphyllum*  
Clusters of three leaves, followed by an upright green tube with a cover that curls over it. One of the easiest native plants to cultivate. Native to savanna and woodlands in neutral soil. Leaves, seeds, and root will severely burn mouth, eyes, and nose. Seed from Clayton and Allamakee counties, Iowa. 12–36" h ●●📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N084 **Jacob's Ladder** *Polemonium reptans* 🌞  
Small, bell-shaped light blue flowers in loose clusters appear on reclining stems in mid- to late spring. The foliage looks fresh until frost. Likes moist soil. Deer-resistant. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 18" h ●●🦋🍵 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**Joe Pye Weed** *Eutrochium*  
Blooms July–September. Moist soil, suitable for rain gardens or naturalized areas. Popular in European gardens. Formerly *Eupatorium*. ○🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot:

N085 **Wild Joe Pye** *E. maculatum* 🌞—Tall and stately with flat clusters of pink flowers. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 72–100" h 🦋🍵

N086 **Wild Sweet Joe Pye** *E. purpureum* 🌞—Tall, with aromatic pink blossoms. Excellent nectar for bees and butterflies. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 84" h

N106 **Swamp** *A. incarnata* 🌞—Deep rosy pink flowers in large, domed clusters. Superb cut flowers, and, of course, butterflies find them irresistible. Very long-blooming, with the aroma of buttercream frosting. Seed from Whiteside County, Illinois. 36–48" h 🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N107 **Whorled** *A. verticillata* 🌞—Sweet-scented white flowers July–September and long needle-like leaves make this wildflower a petite enchant-er. Thrives in poor, dry soil and multiplies rapidly. Seed from northeastern Iowa. 12–24" h 🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

### Milkweed for Shade ●●

N108 **Poke Milkweed** *Asclepias exaltata* 🌞—Can reach up to five feet tall with drooping white flowers in June and July. Thrives in dappled to full shade in moderate to wet woodlands. An excellent choice for providing butterfly and moth habitat in a shady backyard where other milkweeds struggle. Seed from Howard and Chickasaw County, Iowa. 36–72" h ●●🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

See also MILKWEED, GREEN, page 41

N087 **Leadplant** *Amorpha canescens*  
Small gray-green shrub with dense spikes of violet-blue flowers June–August. Nicely textured foliage. Tolerates drier soils. Seed from Sherburne County, Minn. 24–48" h ○🦋🍵📄 \$13.00—4" pot

N088 **Lion's Foot** *Prenanthes alba* 🌞  
Small bunches of nodding white to pinkish half-inch buds open late July–early August to reveal purplish bracts and white petals with toothed tips. The bell-shaped flowers hang down. Leaves are variable in shape, but the large, three-lobed ones look somewhat like a lion's paw. One of the few late-summer blooming woodland residents. Lightly scented. Loved by bumblebees. Also known as white rattlesnake-root. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 20–60" h ●●🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N089 **Lobelia, Great Blue** *Lobelia siphilitica* 🌞  
Spikes of tubular blue-lavender flowers, July–September. The three lower petals are long landing pads for pollinators. Prefers moist soil, but adapts well to gardens. Good for stream banks or damp woods. Self-seeds. Seed from Madison County, Iowa. 24–36" h ○●🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N090 **Loosestrife, Winged** *Lythrum alatum*  
Dainty half-inch flowers open along vertical stems, with new buds from bottom to top. Flowers have six crinkly pink-purple petals with a deep purple midline. Blooms June–September and likes wet feet. Takes its name from the slight "wings" at the corners of the square stem. This plant is not invasive and should not be confused with the destructive purple loosestrife. Seed from McLeod County, Minn. 24–48" h ○🦋🍵📄 \$19.00—6 plants in a jumbo pack

N091 **Lupine, Wild** *Lupinus perennis* 🌞  
Showy blue to violet tiered spikes of blossoms May–June. Seven to 11 leaflets are arranged like wagon-wheel spokes. Excellent for butterflies, both for nectar and caterpillars; it's the only food for larvae of the endangered Karner blue butterfly. Rabbits also love to eat wild lupine. Must have sandy soil. Tolerates drier conditions. Goes dormant after seed. Seed from Burnett County, Wis. 12–24" h ○🦋🍵📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N092 **Marsh Marigold** *Caltha palustris* 🌞  
Bright yellow buttercups in early spring. Native to swamps and brooksides throughout our area. Grows in prairie, savanna, and woodland, but requires year-round moisture. Readily cultivated in wet garden soil or containers. Seed source unknown. 4–16" h ○●📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N093 **May Flower** *Maianthemum canadense*  
Shiny leaves alternate up the thin stems to clusters of star-shaped white flowers. Spreads by rhizomes, so will form a nice colony under trees. Seed from Carlton County, Minn. 4–8" h ●●🦋🍵 \$15.00—4" pot

N094 **Mayapple** *Podophyllum peltatum*  
Pops up in spring with leaves tightly wrapped around the stem, before unfurling out into large umbrellas. Down-facing white flowers. Contrary to the name, it fruits in mid- to late summer, and does not really resemble an apple. When ripe, the 1.5"–2" yellow fruits are prized by foragers, but should be treated with caution as all other parts of the plant, including the seeds and unripe fruit, are toxic. Happiest under oak trees. Midwestern source. 24–36" h ○●🦋📄 \$10.00—1 quart pot

N095 **Meadow Rue, Early** 🌞  
*Thalictrum dioicum*  
The flowers have an unusual form, like little jellyfish in pale green, purple, and yellow. The drooping stamens sway in the slightest breeze. A spring favorite with April–May bloom time. Spreads well. Seed from Mille Lacs County, Minn. 8–28" h ●●🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N096 **Meadow Rue, Purple**  
*Thalictrum dasycarpum*  
Clouds of fluffy-looking clusters of creamy white flowers on tall dark purple stems June–July. Seed from Howard or Chickasaw County, Iowa. 72" h ○●🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N097 **Merrybells** *Uvularia grandiflora* 🌞  
Bright yellow nodding flowers with twisted petals. Clump-former. Easy and well-behaved. Unknown seed source. 12–24" h ●●🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

N098 **Mexican Hat** *Ratibida columnifera*  
Colorful sombreros of mahogany and yellow in summer. A biennial cousin of the yellow coneflower. Seed from Montana. 24–36" h ○●🦋📄 \$4.50—3.5" pot

**Milkweed see box, bottom left**



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# Native Perennials

Plant widths are similar to their heights unless noted otherwise.

## Key

- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade
- ♠ Attractive to bees
- 🦋 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 🦋 Hummingbird-friendly
- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍵 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌿 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
- 📖 Medicinal
- 🇺🇸 Minnesota native
- 🪨 Rock garden
- ❄️ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F
- ☠️ Toxic to humans
- 🛏️ Saturday restock



Turtlehead



Blue vervain

**N144 Spurge, Mountain Snow** 🦋  
*Euphorbia marginata*  
It's hard to believe this is a native plant, let alone a true annual that reseeds. Groups of 2–3" green bracts with wide white margins topped by clusters of tiny white flowers. Midwestern seed source. 12–36"h  
○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**N145 Steeplebush** *Spiraea tomentosa*  
Spikes of showy pink flowers and foliage that turns bright gold and auburn in fall. Good for hedges—plant 36" on center. Prefers rich, moist soil. Also called rosy meadowsweet and hardhack. Seed from Isanti County, Minn. 24–48"h by 36–60"w ○🦋🌿☀️ \$9.00–4" pot

**N146 Strawberry, Wild** 🦋  
*Fragaria virginiana*  
Delicate, five-petaled white flowers in spring lead to half-inch sweet red fruit in summer. This spreading ground cover is a parent plant to the modern cultivated strawberry (a hybrid of *F. virginiana* and the South American *F. chiloensis*), which were called "strawberry" because historically, the plants were mulched with straw to prevent fungal disease. Prefers sandy loam; good for erosion control. Seed from Houston County, Minn. 4–7"h by 12–24"w ○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**Sunflower, Early** *Heliopsis helianthoides*  
Easy to grow. Known as one of the best "clay busters," breaking up heavy clay soils. July–September bloom. Not a true sunflower. ○🦋🌿☀️  
\$4.00–2.5" pot:

**N147 Burning Hearts**—Stems of dark purple carry gold daisies with red centers. Leaves are dark green with shades of purple. This cultivar blooms mid- to late summer. 36–48"h by 18–24"w 🦋

**N148 Summer Nights**—Bright yellow 2–3" flowers with red-orange centers on mostly red stems. Purple-red foliage in spring. Deadheading will prolong bloom from midsummer into fall. Cultivar. 36–48"h by 24–36"w  
\$4.50–3.5" pot:

**N149 Wild Early Sunflower**—Abundant 2" yellow blossoms June–September. Excellent for butterflies. Blooms for an exceptionally long time. Seed from northern Iowa. 24–60"h 🦋  
\$11.00–4.5" pot:

**N150 Bleeding Hearts** 🦋—Profuse 2" daisies first red, then orange, then bronze. Black stems and dark purple leaves for contrast. Cultivar. 40–48"h 🦋

**N151 Sunflower, Maximilian** 🦋  
*Helianthus maximiliani*  
Tall and upright, this is one of the great prairie plants. Yellow 3" daisy flowers with brown centers. Seed from North Dakota. 72"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**N152 Sunflower, Stiff** 🦋  
*Helianthus pauciflorus*  
Cheerful 2–4" yellow flowers with purple-brown centers bloom summer to fall. In hot, dry weather, both petals and leaves fold lengthwise. Spreads rapidly by rhizomes, but used widely in prairie restorations. Prefers dry soil. Host to gorgone checkerspot butterflies. Also known as showy sunflower and prairie sunflower. Seed from Columbia County, Wis. 24–27"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**N153 Thimbleweed** *Anemone cylindrica*  
Stalks emerge in summer with buttercup-shaped, furry white flowers. After each flower blooms, its center elongates into a light green 1.5" cone, then becomes a wad of cottony fluff that enables the attached brown seeds to ride the breeze. Not keen on being transplanted, but reliable once established. Enjoys the absence of taller competitors. Likes dry, sandy, or gritty soil. Seed from Monroe County, Wis. 18–30"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**N154 Trillium, White** *Trillium grandiflorum* 🦋  
Very showy, large white blossoms April–May. Flowers change to pink as they age. The best trillium for gardens. A colony of these spring beauties will last for years. Rich, deep, rather moist soil and year-round leaf mulch. Polk County, Wis. source. 12–15"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$18.00–4.5" pot

**N155 Turtlehead, White** *Chelone glabra* 🦋  
Creamy white flowers shaped like small turtle heads on arching spikes July–September. Desirable for the moist wild garden. Excellent nectar plant for butterflies and bees. Seed from Winona County, Minn. ★★★★★ 36–48"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**Vervain, Wild** *Verbena*  
Tiny dark blue to violet flowers on mini candelabras. ○🦋🌿☀️  
\$4.50–3.5" pot:

**N156 Blue V.** *hastata* 🦋—Blooms July–September. Native to moist cordgrass and cattail prairies over most of North America. Self-seeds. Seed from Whiteside County, Illinois. 36–72"h

**N157 Hoary V.** *stricta* 🦋—Blooms June–September. Prefers dry areas (xeriscape plant). Seed from Monroe County, Wis. 24–48"h

**N158 Violet, Prairie** *Viola pedatifida*  
Violet-purple flowers April–June, often reblooming in September. Fan-shaped leaves. Good food for butterfly caterpillars. Prefers a well-drained sunny site. Seed from Will County, Illinois. 4–8"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$4.50–3.5" pot

**N159 Violet, Yellow** *Viola pubescens*  
Velvety half-inch yellow flowers with distinctive purple-black veins radiating from the center on the lowest petal. Woodland companion to the other native Minnesota yellow violet, yellow prairie violet (*Viola nuttallii*). Excellent for naturalizing in a shade garden. Host plant of the fritillary butterfly. Blooms April–June. Also known as downy yellow violet. Mille Lacs County, Minn., source. 9–12"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$22.00–6 plants in a pack

**Wild Indigo** *Baptisia*  
Blue-green, pea-like foliage and long spikes of flowers. Seed from St. Croix County, Wis. ○🦋🌿☀️  
\$4.50–3.5" pot:

**N160 Cream** *B. bracteata* var. *leucophaea*—Creamy yellow flowers that are held horizontally, spring to early summer. Particularly effective when planted on top of a rock wall where the flowers can be viewed at eye level. 18"h 🦋

**N161 White** *B. alba* 🦋—Many small white flowers in late spring on tall, dark stems. Attractive seed pods. Easy to grow in average to dry soils; drought-tolerant. 36–48"h 🦋

## More Minnesota Native Plants



Look for these native plants in other sections:

Climbers	Shrubs, continued
C019 Virgin's Bower Clematis	S042 Highbush Cranberry
<b>Fruit and Nuts</b>	S046 Red Twig Dogwood
F038 Hazelnut	S056 Bitternut Hickory
F058 Wild Plum	S093 New Jersey Tea
F070 Serviceberry	S098 White Pine
<b>Grasses</b>	S133–S135 Species Roses
G002 Big Bluestem	S140 White Snowberry
G004 Little Bluestem	S147 Sweetfern
G008 Bottlebrush Grass	S151 Tamarack
G012 Dropseed	S152 Wahoo
G022 June Grass	S154 Sandbar Willow
G027 Silky Rye	S159–S160 Witchhazel
G029–G032 Native Sedges	<b>Unusual and Rare</b>
G034 Side-Oats Grama	U006 Pink Pincushion Cactus
G035 Sweet Grass	U021 Large Yellow Lady's Slipper
G037 Yellow Prairie Grass	U022 Small Yellow Lady's Slipper
<b>Shrubs</b>	U023 White Showy Lady's Slipper
S031 Buttonbush	<b>Vegetables</b>
S038 Cherry, Black	V247 Strawberry Spinach
S039 Black Chokeberry	
S041 Chokecherry	

**N162 Wood Sorrel** *Oxalis violacea*

A sweet spring ephemeral, lavender flowers with a yellow eye. All parts of the plant are edible, though like all *Oxalis*, should only be eaten in limited amounts. Seed from Benton County, Minn. 4–8"h ○🦋🌿☀️ \$15.00–4" pot

**Yarrow** *Achillea millefolium*

Dome-shaped 3–4" flower clusters and aromatic lacy foliage. Long bloom time, June–August. Good for cutting and drying; architects use them as the "trees" around model buildings. Drought-tolerant. ○🦋🌿☀️  
\$3.00–2.5" pot:

**N163 Cerise Queen.** 🦋—Cherry pink cultivar. 24–36"h

**N164 Summer Pastels** 🦋—A mix of pink, salmon, yellow, and white. Cultivar. 24–36"h

\$5.00–4" pot:

**N166 Wild White Yarrow** 🦋—White flowers. Popular in bee lawns, it can be cut back and even mowed. Will spread by seed and rhizomes. Source from the upper Midwest. 24–36"h 🦋🌿☀️

\$9.00–4.5" pot:

**N167 Desert Eve Terracotta** 🦋—Small peachy yellow flowers turn burnt orange and have gold centers and stripes. Cultivar. 12–18"h

**N168 Milly Rock Yellow** 🦋—Densely packed yellow flowers create an ideal landing-pad for busy pollinators. Cultivar. 12–18"h

**N169 New Vintage Violet** 🦋—Small magenta flowers with a cream eye. Cultivar. 12–18"h

**N170 Pink Grapefruit** 🦋—Large clusters of tiny white-centered flowers emerge bright pink and become light pink. Color is brightest in full sun. Cultivar. 18–24"h

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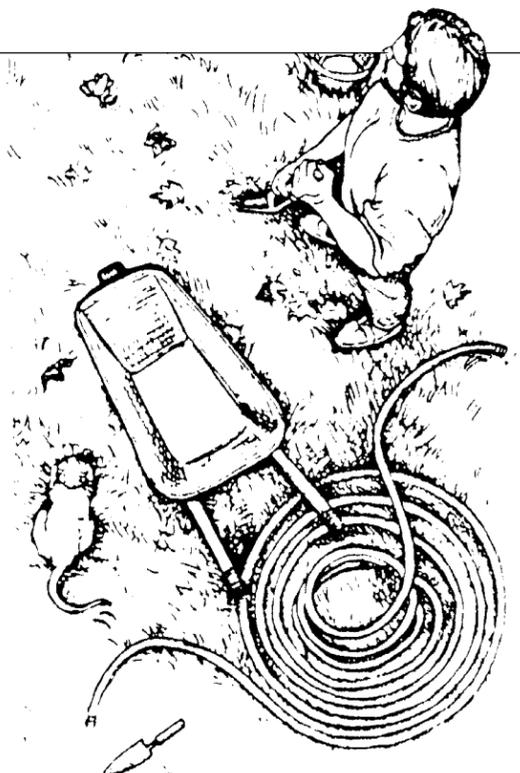
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# Grasses & Sedges

Plant widths are similar to their heights unless noted otherwise.

Most grasses and sedges are showiest in late summer and fall. Many grow in attractive clumps and provide winter interest, as well. They can be used to replace spikes in containers and provide vertical, mounding garden accents.

## G001 Blue Grama Grass

*Bouteloua gracilis* Blonde Ambition

Selection of a Minnesota native perennial with 36" stems in fall, holding seed heads like horizontal light yellow eyelashes. Clump-former with fine gray-green foliage. Dominant through the central Great Plains, ranging to western Wisconsin. Host to 13 native butterfly species. 12–18" h ○ ☞ \$12.00—4.5" pot

## Bluestem, Big *Andropogon gerardii*

Vertical stems in a dense clump. Known for its three-pronged "turkey-foot" seed heads in late summer. From the prairie and savanna, it's drought-tolerant, reliably perennial, and adaptable. Host plant for the caterpillars of argos skipper, dusted skipper, and Delaware skipper butterflies. Best in lean soil. Emerges in late spring. ○ ●

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

G002 **Wild Big Bluestem** ☞—Midwestern seed source. 60–92" h by 48–60" w ☞ ☞ \$16.00—1 gal. pot:

\$16.00—1 gal. pot:

G003 **Blackhawks** ☞—Bluish green in spring, with red tinges in summer, and turning purplish in fall until it's almost black. Shorter selection. 48–60" h by 24" w

## Bluestem, Little *Schizachyrium scoparium*

A favorite for gardens and naturalized areas. Upright, dense clump of narrow stems. Drought-tolerant perennial once established. Prefers sun. Deer-resistant. Provides larval food for 11 native butterflies and moths. ○ ●

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

G004 **Wild Little Bluestem** ☞—Midwestern seed source. 12–36" h ☞ ☞ \$10.00—1 quart pot:

\$10.00—1 quart pot:

G005 **Blaze** (NEW) ☞—Selection with fine leaves that show a kaleidoscope of color in fall. Starting in late summer, leaves turn a light purple, then pinkish orange, then reddish purple, and finally a bright red that turns pink in the winter. 24–36" h by 18–24" w

\$13.00—1 quart pot:

G006 **Blue Heaven**—Upright, slender green leaves with a tinge of blue at base. Purplish bronze flowers in August, followed by fluffy silver-white seed heads. Bronze-orange fall foliage. Selection. ★★★★★ 24–48" h ☞

G007 **Standing Ovation**—Thick, bluish green leaves. Fiery foliage in fall. Selection. 36–48" h ☞

G008 **Bottlebrush Grass** *Elymus hystrix* ☞

Clump-forming perennial with tall spikes that look like bottlebrushes. A must for forest restorations and shady gardens. Excellent for texture. Seed from Benton or Wright counties, Minn. 36" h ○ ● ☞ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## G009 Bulrush, Nodding (NEW)

*Scirpus pendulus* Stars and Stripes

Yellow stripes edged with green on wide grassy leaves bring sunshine to ponds and wet areas. Sprays of yellow stars on yellow stems above the leaves in summer. Named one of the best plants of 2025 by *Fine Gardening* magazine. Selection of a Minnesota native clumping perennial. 18–24" h ○ ● ☞ \$5.00—3" plug

## G010 Bunny Tails *Lagurus ovatus* ☞

Fun for children and adults. Fuzzy seed heads on compact grass. Drought-tolerant annual; needs well-drained soil. 20" h ○ \$4.50—3.5" pot

## G011 Dropseed, Giant *Sporobolus wrightii*

Airy, feathery cream to bronze 12–24" plumes on dramatic 60–72" stems from August–October, above a 36–48" clump of arching, gray-green foliage. Fast-growing and drought-tolerant perennial once established. 36–84" h ○ ● \$10.00—1 quart pot

## Dropseed, Northern *Sporobolus heterolepis*

Fine-textured clump-forming perennial with seed heads variously described as scented like buttered popcorn, cilantro, or Juicy Fruit gum. Host plant to six native butterflies. ○ ● ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

G012 **Wild Dropseed** ☞—Grown for its arching, thin leaves and cloud-like panicles of pinkish beige flowers in midsummer. Midwestern seed source. ★★★★★ 24–48" h ☞ ☞

\$16.00—1 gal. pot:

G013 **Tara**—Short and upright selection, less arching than the species. Orange-red fall color. 12" h

## Feather Reed Grass *Calamagrostis*

Showy, feathery plumes that last into fall and winter. Clump-forming perennial. ○

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

G014 **Korean C.** *brachytricha* ☞—Feathery mauve-pink plumes in fall are great as a cut stem or left to give winter interest to your garden. Can take some shade. 36–48" h

\$7.00—3" deep pot:

G015 **Art's Golden C.** × *acutiflora*—Similar to Karl Foerster, but variegated green and yellow. Bred by the late Art Boe of North Star Nursery in Faribault, Minn. ★★★★★ 48–60" h

\$8.00—1 quart pot:

G016 **Karl Foerster C.** × *acutiflora* ☞—Great for use as a grass hedge. Emerges and blooms earlier than most tall grasses. Wheat-colored seed heads. ★★★★★ 48–60" h

## G017 Fescue, Dwarf Blue

*Festuca ovina glauca*

Soft tufts provide contrast in the garden. Also for edging, ground cover, or lawn alternative. Good drainage needed. Clump-forming perennial. 10–16" h ○ ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot

## G018 Fiber Optic Grass *Isolepis cernuus*

It really does look like fiber optic filament, only green. A great accent grass for containers. Not hardy, but worth bringing inside for the winter, because the mature plant develops a "trunk." Consistently moist to wet soil. 8–12" h ○ ☞ ☞

\$4.00—2.5" pot

## G019 Flame Grass, Red

*Miscanthus sinensis purpurascens*

Gray-green foliage turns brilliant red-orange in fall. Narrow silvery plumes in midsummer. Clump-forming perennial from Asia. ★★★★★ 36–48" h ○

\$8.00—4.5" pot

## G020 Fountain Grass

*Pennisetum setaceum* Fireworks

Long stripes of burgundy, hot pink, and white. New growth is the most vibrant. In late summer, it looks like purple foxtails. Treat as an annual. A garden favorite. 24–30" h ○ ● ☞

\$6.00—4" pot

## G021 Japanese Forest Grass

*Hakonechloa macra* Aureola

Variegated in gold and green. A delightful, short ornamental perennial, forming graceful mounds of draping foliage. Lights up shady areas of the garden and pairs well with hostas. Slow to emerge in spring. Slow-spreading, it does well in moist but well-drained soil. 12" h ○ ●

\$14.00—4.5" pot

## G022 June Grass *Koeleria macrantha* ☞

Low-grower suitable for edging native restoration plantings. Provides larval food for five native butterfly species. Clump-forming perennial, most commonly found growing in dry sandy soils. Seed from Washington State. 12–24" h ○ ● ☞ ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot

## G023 Muhly Grass

*Muhlenbergia capillaris* Pink Cloud

Puffy, rose-pink clouds of graceful plumes in early fall that look even better backlit by early or late sun. A well-behaved and drought-tolerant clump-former, its seeds are a favorite of birds. Try planting with deep pink shrub roses, in a bed of groundcover juniper, or even as a small hedge. Treat as an annual. 30–36" h ○ ●

\$6.00—4" pot

## G024 Ruby Grass

*Melinis nerviglumis* Savannah

Ruby pink 3–4" plumes that rise a foot above the foliage from late July are real showstoppers. Blue-green foliage turns purple-red in the fall. Treat as an annual. 8–12" h ○ ☞

\$6.00—4" pot

## G025 Rush, Corkscrew *Juncus effusus* Spiralis

Curly foliage is fantastic in flower arrangements. Prefers a moist location, even 1–6" underwater in a pond, but it also did well in our State Fair garden, which was well-drained. Cut back the old stems in late winter so you can see the fresh green corkscrews in spring. Clump-forming perennial. 12–18" h ○ ● ☞

\$4.00—2.5" pot

## G026 Rush, Swordleaf

*Juncus ensifolius* Flying Hedgehogs

Flat, iris-like leaves and taller stems with fuzzy, tufted dark brown seed heads that sway playfully in the breeze. Native to wetlands of western North America. Adores moist to wet soil, but not long periods in standing water. Filters surface runoff in a rain garden or wetland restoration. Clump-forming perennial. Also called dagger leaf, beaver dam plant, and starhead. 8–14" h ○

\$7.00—4" pot

## G027 Rye, Silky *Elymus canadensis* ☞

Arching feathery plumes in late summer and fall on this oak savanna native. Larval host to more than 30 native butterflies and moths. Clump-forming perennial. Wet to dry soil, good for shade. Seed from Allamakee County, Iowa. 36–72" h ○ ● ☞ ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot

## G028 Sedge *Carex buchananii* Red Rooster ☞

Slender orange-brown to red-brown leaves with wispy, slightly curly tips. Graceful and upright. Great in containers or the garden. Can take full sun. May be perennial in sheltered locations, so don't pull it up in spring until you are sure. 20–30" h ○ ☞

\$6.00—4" pot

## Sedge, Native *Carex*

Glossy, arching leaves. Perennial useful as a shady lawn substitute in moist, rich soil. Clump-forming unless noted otherwise. Prefers partial to full shade, but will grow in full sun if soil is kept moist. Deer- and rabbit-resistant. ○ ● ☞

\$4.00—2.5" pot:

G029 **Gray's Sedge** *C. grayi*—Large showy seed heads like spiked medieval clubs. Wider leaves are more upright than most sedges. Originally found in moist shade, but will grow in many locations. Seed from Wisconsin. 24–30" h

\$4.50—3.5" pot:

G030 **Ivory Sedge** *C. eburnea* ☞—Domes of soft, grass-like foliage with inconspicuous green-white flower spikes in spring. Good for naturalized lawns and between pavers. Spreads slowly to form colonies. Seed from Fillmore County, Minn. 6–8" h ☞ ☞

G031 **Palm Sedge** *C. muskingumensis* ☞—This Great Lakes native is one of the tallest sedges in cultivation. Its graceful weeping foliage and height make it a natural for the middle of a sunny border or as a stand-alone statement. Spreading. Seed from northern Indiana. ★★★★★ 28" h

G032 **Rosy Sedge** *C. rosea* ☞—Narrow arching leaves with twisted, rose-tinted seed heads. Similar to star sedge, but with curled tips on fruiting flowers and preference for drier soils. Consider for dry shade. Seed from Houston County, Minn. 12" h ☞

\$5.00—3.5" pot:

G033 **Pennsylvania Sedge** *C. pennsylvanica* ☞—Arching to weeping spreader that tolerates light foot traffic. Grows well under oaks and with ephemeral wild flowers. Good for everywhere from prairies to woodlands to rain gardens. Even good in dry shade, and needs no mowing. Seed source unknown. ★★★★★ 6–12" h ☞

## G034 Side-Oats Grama

*Bouteloua curtipendula*

Graceful, upright grass whose flowers align on one side of the stems. Larval host to six native butterfly and moth species. Tolerates dry soil. Prefers sun. Clump-forming perennial. Seed from Crawford County, Wis. 12–36" h ○ ● ☞ ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot

## G035 Sweet Grass *Hierochloa odorata* ☞

Upright grass with tan seed heads. Sacred plant among many Native American tribes. Used in basket-weaving and braided to make incense. Likes moist to wet soil. Aggressive perennial spreader. Seed from western Illinois. 12–24" h ○ ● ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot

## G036 Switch Grass

*Panicum virgatum* Shenandoah

Most compact and controlled cultivar. Red foliage by midsummer. Delicate, feathery seed heads. Prefers light soil. Clump-forming perennial. 36" h ○

\$8.00—4.5" pot

## G037 Yellow Prairie Grass

*Sorghastrum nutans*

Silky plumes in shades of gold and brown. Good grass for gardens. Tolerates dry soil. Clump-forming perennial. Midwestern seed source. ★★★★★ 36–72" h ○ ● ☞ ☞

\$4.50—3.5" pot

## About those stars...

Throughout, you will notice plants that are marked with five stars (★★★★★). These plants have been awarded five stars by Heger, Lonnee, and Whitman in the 2011 edition of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* as some of the very best plants available on the market.



Bunny tails

## Watch for the birdie!



Plants marked with the bird icon are endorsed by the Audubon Society as providing food and habitat for birds. [audubon.org/plantsforbirds](http://audubon.org/plantsforbirds)



Sweet grass